

Oyster



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF CULTURED OYSTERS

NEW RESEARCH REVEALS ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS



1

Oysters Clean the Water by Filter Feeding:

- Reduce turbidity and anoxia (low oxygen)
- Improve water quality and light penetration
- A single adult oyster can filter a maximum of 50 gallons a day retaining particles as small as 2 microns
- A small oyster farm in Florida can clear from 450,000 to over 3 million gallons each day

2

Oysters Remove Excess Nutrients:

- Oysters feed on naturally occurring microscopic plants
- Nitrogen contained in shellfish tissues is removed when harvested
- Oyster feeding also stimulates denitrification
- Harvest from a small oyster farm can remove 40 to 80 lbs of nitrogen from the environment and 12 lbs through enhanced denitrification each year

3

Oysters Stimulate Diversity:

- Oyster farming can improve species abundance and diversity
- Shells and culture gear provide habitat for juvenile fish, crabs, & other aquatic organisms

4

Oyster Farming is Sustainable:

- Oysters filter microscopic cells from the water column
- Oysters feed low on the food chain
- No fertilizers, feed, chemicals, drugs, or antibiotics are used in oyster production

